

# LIVING ROOM SAFETY

## TV & FURNITURE TIP-OVERS:

- Use brackets and straps to keep your TV in place. Televisions are getting larger and flatter, which makes them easy to tip.
  - Mount flat screen TVs to the wall, if possible.
  - If you have a CRT-model TV (the kind that looks like a giant box), make sure it's secure too. Just because they're heavier doesn't mean they can't tip over.
- Use brackets, braces or wall straps to secure heavy furniture, like entertainment centers, bookshelves, or desks, to the wall.
- Install stops on drawers so your kids can't pull them all the way out when they're looking through their stuff.
- Place heavier items on lower shelves or drawers, to make the furniture more stable.
- Place fun items, such as TV remotes, food or toys, in places where kids won't be tempted to climb up or reach for them.
- Electrical cords from TVs, DVD players and video games are easy to trip over. Keep them out of the way, and wrap long cords that are plugged in all the time around a cord shortener.

## FIRES & BURNS:

- Place a sturdy screen in front of all fireplaces; install barriers around space heaters.
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn. Monitor children and pets when using the space heater, and be sure to turn off the space heater when you leave the room.
- If you have a fireplace, use seasoned hardwood, such as oak, ash or maple, and be sure to have your fireplace inspected and cleaned once a year.
- Never leave burning candles unattended, and be sure to put out all candles before going to bed.
- Remove all novelty lighters, or any lighters that look like toys.
- Store matches, lighters and other flammable materials in a safe place, or high up out of children's reach and sight. Teach them to never play with these things.
- Avoid over-plugging. Too many appliance cords in one electrical outlet can cause a fire. Cover all unused outlets with outlet covers.

## DOWNLOAD THE MAKE SAFE HAPPEN APP

Developed in partnership with the safety experts at Nationwide Children's Hospital, the app helps you make your home safer. Get room-by-room safety checklists, link to recommended products, and set reminders.



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**CHOKING AND POISONING:**

- Get on your hands and knees and look around the room. Find and remove any small items, like coins, water bottle caps, button batteries and building set parts that are within your child's reach, and can be a choking risk.
- Move all furniture and toys away from windows and window cords.
- Make sure your children's toys are appropriate for their age, by checking the manufacturer's recommendation.
- Remove or store any toys that have small parts or magnets that could become dislodged. An item is small enough to get stuck in your child's throat if you can drop it through a toilet paper tube. That's your signal to keep that toy or game away from your child. You can also purchase choke test tubes made specifically for this purpose.
- Do not allow children under 8 to play with balloons, or with toys that have sharp edges, long strings or cords.
- Make sure to put guests' purses and coats up and out of children's reach, so they don't get into anything that they shouldn't (medicines, button batteries, and other small objects).
- Button batteries can easily fall out or be pulled out of things like greeting cards, remotes, and key fobs. Make sure to secure all battery compartments.
- Adults put e-cigarettes in their mouths, so kids may try to as well. Store e-cigarettes, refills and cartridges out of children's reach.
- While hand sanitizer keeps kids germfree, it can also be toxic if it gets in their mouths. Teach kids the smart and safe way to use hand sanitizer.

**FALLS:**

- Keep floors clear of toys, clutter and spills.
- Make sure carpets and runners are secure. Use rugs with non-slip backs, or if that's not possible, use non-slip rug pads.
- Floors that are wood, or have been recently cleaned, are slippery, so use non-skid wax or polish on your floors.

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY:**

- Put the Poison Control Center number (1-800-222-1222) and other emergency numbers into your home and cell phones, and in a highly visible place (like the refrigerator door) where all caregivers can see it.

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